illegal business being operated by travel agents to sent gullible people to foreign countries for employment after charging lakhs of rupees from them;

(b) if so, the numberof Indian's languishing in Jails in foreign countries alongwith the names in those countries;

(c) the number of Indians brought back to India during the last three years, year-wise, alongwith the names of those countries; and

(d) the steps Government are taking to curb such activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Sporadic complaints against unregistered agents individuals are received in this regard.

(b) and (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) As and when complaints are received against the unscrupulous agents/individuals, show-cause notices are issued/complaints are lodged with the local police authorities for taking action. The Government has been issuing sanctions to prosecute various unscrupulous persons involved in the business of manpower export. The State Governments/Union Territories have been requested to issue guidelines right down to the police station level to maintain a strict vigil against nefarious activities of unscrupulous agents. In case of complaints against registered recruiting agents, show-cause notices are issued to the agents and if the reply is not found convincing, the license of the recruiting agents is Suspended/ Cancelled.

Default in deposiling statutory dues

291. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the article titled "Public Limited means unlimited waste of public money" appearing in the Indian Express dated the 9th July, 2002;

(b) if so, whether some PSUs have not deposited statutory dues to the extent of Rs. 1578 crore in addition to Rs. 357 crore of wages to workers as alleged in the article;

(c) if not, the actual status as on date;

(d) whether Government are taking any action as per law as articulated in the article; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (c) According to the available information, 73 Central Public Sector Undertakings had outstanding statutory dues amounting to Rs. 2068.84 crore as on 31.12.2001. This includes wage and salary arrears of Rs. 467.97 crore.

(d) and (e) In order to recover the dues, the Government has taken recovery as well as prosecution action as prescribed under the law.

Welfare scheme for unorganised workers

f292. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated or propose to formulate any new ambitious scheme for the welfare of the workers engaged in unorganized sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are considering to implement any scheme to grant pension to the workers of the above sector; and

(d) if so, by when this scheme would be implemented for the benefit of the workers;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (d) The Government have taken several steps for the welfare of workers in the unorganised sector. The Government has recently launched a social security scheme for agricultural labour namely 'Krishi Shramik Samajik Suraksha Yojana 2001' through the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) in 50 selected districts to cover 10 lakh agricultural workers over a period of three years. The benefits under the scheme, *inter-alia,* include life-cum-accident insurance, money back, pension and superannuation benefits to the agricultural workers.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.